

April 25, 1975

CLERK: Mr. President, a motion on the desk.

PRESIDENT: Read the motion.

CLERK: I move to strike the new language and except the Duis amendment. Signed, W. George.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes W. George . . . or Senator George.

SENATOR GEORGE: Mr. President, we have already discussed this issue. I still think because of previous reasons that we do not need this bill. I intended to first indefinitely postpone this bill, but Senator Duis' amendment does have merit. Therefore, I have changed my motion now to strike the new language, except Senator Duis' amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Anderson.

SENATOR ANDERSON: I think you know that quite naturally I would have to oppose this. I think that the bill does achieve a necessary balance between the administrative problems that the assessors are trying to face and the desire that this Legislature expressed a year ago to eliminate the annual filing requirement and the chance of losing the exemption with failure to file. It does add a paperwork requirement, but I think that we need to stop and think just how far can the Legislature go in this regard. Can we let taxpayers off scottfree? Can we say in effect that we're going to give you the exemption whether you're eligible or not. We don't care whether you continue to comply or whether there's been some change that makes you ineligible. We're just going to give you the exemption anyway. I think this is an extremely irresponsible position on the part of the Legislature. I think that we should attempt to work some solution out. If somebody can come up with a better solution that solves the administrative problems we're facing, fine. I'm willing to accept it. I haven't seen that better solution yet. I have to oppose the amendment proposed by Senator George.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cavanaugh.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Well Senator Anderson, I don't think it's fair to make a charge that this is irresponsible. We decided this in the Legislature a year ago when we adopted the Burbach bill that eliminated the annual filing of the application. If you want to change it there ought to be some demonstration. If you want to make the elderly report or refile every year there should be some demonstration. What you're saying is we've got a bunch of cheats and chisslers among the elderly of the state. We can't rely on them generally to be honest and not report when they're not in compliance. You're saying that there are a bunch of people cheating. I don't think there's any evidence of that. I think that the only way to pass your bill is to present the evidence of that. You're in effect making the allegation with trying to soften the language, but that's what you're saying. I don't think it's true. I think that the majority of the elderly -